

## COALITION CALENDAR

### Student Digital Media and Essay Competitions: Entries due April 30!

Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit entries for the Science and Human Rights Coalition's essay and digital media competitions. For both competitions, submissions are due by April 30:

**Essay Competition:** Students are invited to submit an essay (up to 1,500 words) on any topic at the intersection of science and human rights. Rules and how to enter may be found [here](#).

**Digital Media Competition:** Students are invited to submit a creative work using digital media (websites, videos, podcasts, games, apps) that explores the connections between science and human rights. Rules and how to enter may be found [here](#).

### Competition Judges Needed

If you would like to serve as a judge for the essay or digital media student competitions, please email Theresa Harris at [tharris@aaas.org](mailto:tharris@aaas.org). Judges in the first round will be asked to review entries in May; the final selections will take place in early June.

### July 27-28: Save the Date! Coalition Meeting | Article 15 – the Right to Science

The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition meeting in July will focus on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. Presentations will include updates on the Coalition's project to better define this right in international human rights discourse and opportunities for future involvement by Coalition members.

## COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### April 20: Evaluation 101 Workshop for Human Rights Organizations

On April 20, [join us](#) for the first event in a series on evaluation for human rights organizations. Not in DC? Join us via webinar! This event is a project of the Coalition, led by Capital Area Social Psychological Association (CASPA) representative Ollie Moles.

### April 22: March for Science

AAAS and many Coalition member organizations are partners in the [March for Science](#), which will include rallies and events in more than 500 locations around the world. On the day before the march, the AAAS will host two workshops: [Catalyzing Advocacy in Science & Engineering](#) and [Communicating Science](#). On April 22, AAAS will welcome March for Science participants at its headquarters building with a light breakfast and pre-March rally. After the events on the National Mall, marchers are invited to return to AAAS headquarters anytime until 7:00 p.m. to charge mobile devices and receive a chair massage. A post-March happy hour will be held at 5:30 p.m.

### “What Does it Mean to Have a Right to Science?”

Coalition Coordinator Jessica Wyndham and American Sociological Association representative Margaret Weigers Vitullo [presented research](#) on Article 15 to the United Nations. Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights says that all people have the right to “enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.” It also says that governments have a responsibility to conserve, develop, and diffuse science; respect scientific freedom; and recognize the importance of international contacts and co-operation for the scientific enterprise.

### ASA Expresses Support for Ousted Statistics Officials

The American Statistical Association (ASA) is [urging](#) the government of Greece to drop charges against economist Andreas Georgiou, the former president of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) and other officials. Georgiou was appointed by the Greek parliament in 2010 to head

ELSTAT and bring about the production of reliable Greek statistics. Statistics produced under his leadership were validated and published by Eurostat (the official statistics body of the EU in which Greece is a member) for five consecutive years. In 2013, he was accused of “undermining the national interest” and faced criminal charges, which were found baseless, but charges have been revived.

### **May 11-12: Language, the Sustainable Development Goals, and Vulnerable Populations**

The Linguistic Society of America (LSA) representative Michel DeGraff will speak on language and human rights at a symposium in New York hosted by the Study Group on Language and the UN. Additional information and registration are available [here](#).

## **CALLS FOR ACTION**

### **Scholars at Risk Calls for Letters of Support with Central European University**

On April 4, Hungary's Parliament passed legislative amendments that apparently target Central European University (CEU). These changes, described as “administratively and financially prohibitive,” threaten CEU’s existence as well as academic freedom and institutional autonomy in Hungary more broadly. In light of these extraordinary circumstances, Scholars at Risk (SAR) encourages institutions and individuals to share their own letters and statements of solidarity with CEU. For more information, to read CEU’s statement, and to learn more about how you can show your support, visit CEU’s [website](#).

### **Write on Behalf of Imprisoned Engineer and Professor**

SAR is gravely concerned over Professor Khalil Al-Halwachi, an engineer and academic instructor, who has been sentenced to ten years in prison in Bahrain, apparently as a result of nonviolent expressive and associative activity, and who is experiencing inhumane conditions in prison. More information about his case and how to take action are available [here](#).

### **Advocating for Science Beyond the March**

On April 19, join AAAS for a [webinar](#) to discuss ways to engage with policymakers, the media, and the public after the March for Science. The webinar will also launch a new advocacy toolkit.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT**

### **May 5: Informational Session on Applying for ECOSOC Status**

In advance of the upcoming deadline (June 1, 2017) to apply for United Nations Economic and Social Council status, the [NGO Branch of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(DESA\)](#) will hold an informational session about the application process. This event will be aired online on May 5, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (New-York time) and will be conducted in English. More information about registration may be found [here](#).

### **May 12: Questionnaire on Human Rights and Hazardous Substances and Wastes**

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Implications for Human Rights of the Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of Hazardous Substances and Wastes is calling for input through a [questionnaire](#) that will be used to prepare a report to be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in September 2017 on good practices for environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. Of particular interest is the impact and related practices for vulnerable groups (children, women of reproductive age, the elderly, indigenous people, and the poor); accountability measures, including remediation; workers’ exposures; toxics in conflict areas; and the responsibility of the business sector.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Global Network Initiative Seeks Policy Director**

Working at the intersection of technology policy, human rights, and corporate social responsibility, the Global Network Initiative (GNI) seeks an experienced policy professional with a strong commitment to free expression and privacy and a desire to engage directly with Internet and telecommunications companies and other stakeholders. Further details may be found [here](#).

### **Call for Applications: Early Warning Project Research Fellowship**

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide is calling for applications for a [new research fellowship](#) focused on increasing knowledge of early warning for mass atrocities in countries that the Early Warning Project has determined to have a high risk for mass atrocities.

### **April 30: Applications for President and CEO, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law**

The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, a Washington, DC-based civil rights organization focused on protecting and advancing the rights of adults and children who have mental disabilities, [is seeking](#) a President and CEO to lead the organization.

### **April 30: Call for Workshop Submissions and Paper Proposals**

[Workshop submissions and paper proposals](#) are invited for the International Conference on Human Rights Education (ICHRE), a forum for practitioners, policy-makers and academics, to explore innovative education solutions to global challenges. The conference, which will be held on November 30 to December 3 in Montreal, Canada will gather 300 participants for practical workshops and sessions on human rights education.

### **Aug. 7-11: Summer School on Voting Rights for Mathematicians**

Tufts University will hold a five-day program, [Geometry of Redistricting: Summer School](#), with the principal purpose of training mathematicians to be expert witnesses for court cases on redistricting and gerrymandering.

### **Aug. 21: Submission for Special Issue on Business and Human Rights**

The *Nordic Journal of Human Rights* invites [submissions](#) for a special issue on research methods related to business and human rights (BHR) to be published in 2018. The special issue will focus on the interdisciplinary potential of BHR research by inviting contributions that develop new methods for research and analysis or pragmatically apply methods across academic disciplines.

### **Aug. 31: Call for Manuscripts: Human Rights and Infectious Diseases**

A new cross-journal article collection in [BMC International Health and Human Rights](#) and [BMC Infectious Diseases](#) is looking to highlight studies that illuminate human rights infringements as structural determinants of infectious diseases, including sexually transmitted infections. This includes epidemiologic studies, interventional outcomes leveraging implementation research, implementation research methods, mathematical modeling studies, and qualitative study of the contexts in which infectious disease programs are being implemented. Research to be considered for inclusion can be submitted directly to [BMC International Health and Human Rights](#) and [BMC Infectious Diseases](#) or you can email presubmission inquiries to [Philippa.Harris@biomedcentral.com](mailto:Philippa.Harris@biomedcentral.com)

### **Nov. 5-17: Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery Certificate Program**

The [Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma's](#) (HPRT) Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery Certificate Program is [seeking applicants](#). The training program offers an art, cultural and scientific learning experience to address the needs of traumatized persons or communities worldwide. The course offers a two-week learning program in Italy followed by five months of collaborative online learning. Certificates of completion are awarded by HPRT and the Harvard Medical School Department of Continuing Education.

## SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

### Human Rights and Biological Anthropology Examined

Forbes' Kristina Killgrove [interviews](#) anthropologist Chip Colwell Ph.D, senior curator of anthropology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, on his role in leading the repatriation program at the museum. His recent book, [Plundered Skulls and Stolen Spirits](#), explores the relationship between bioanthropology and Native Americans' right to their archeological remains. Killgrove obtains Colwell's perspective on the evolution of the repatriation movement in the US and the museum's role in connecting with Native American communities to preserve and teach about Native Americans' past.

### NAACP Report Asserts the Human Right to Electricity

A recent [study](#) published by the NAACP's Environmental and Climate Justice Program finds that utility shut-downs disproportionately affect poor and African-American communities and point to policies and practices that further harm these groups: 36 states have reconnection fees, 28 states have no temperature-based policies, and eight states have no medical protection policies in the case of energy shutdowns. The organization is calling for a solution strategy that begins with the establishment of a universal right to uninterrupted energy service, which would ensure that provisions are in place to prevent utility disconnection due to non-payment and arrearages.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### San People of Southern Africa Publish Code of Ethics for Researchers

The indigenous San people of southern Africa [recently published](#) a [code of ethics](#) for researchers studying the San. The code was developed in response to past experiences with researchers, including the use of language such as "Bushmen" in reference to the San people. The code asks that researchers studying the community allow the San people to review the work before publication and asks that researchers return something to the San community after their research.

### Natural Entities Granted Legal Status in New Zealand & India

In two separate actions, the New Zealand Parliament and an India court have granted legal standing to natural entities by asserting human rights protection to non-human living entities. The New Zealand Parliament [passed a bill](#) recognizing the Whanganui River as a living entity, which will now be represented by two people: one from the New Zealand government and the second from the indigenous Maori people who had long sought protection of the river. Separately, an Indian court in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand [ruled](#) that two Himalayan glaciers, Gangotri and Yamunotri, which feed India's Ganga and Yamuna Rivers, be granted standing as "legal persons." The court also extended the status of "living entity" to other natural entities of the Himalayan environment, including the Ganges and Yamuna rivers. The court ruled that the rights of these entities are equivalent to the rights of human beings and any injury or harm caused to these bodies shall be treated as injury or harm caused to human beings.

### International Conference Focuses on Women's Empowerment and Human Rights

The Women's Empowerment Principles Forum, a joint convening of the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation, United Nations Office for Partnerships, UN Women, and the UN Global Compact, was held in New York in mid-March to explore the role of the private sector in achieving the sustainable development agenda, examine different ways of measuring outcomes of initiatives to support women and girls, and discuss how to use data to drive discourse and action. A full webcast of the Forum, including the keynote address of Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, CEO, Plan International, a child rights organization, may be found [here](#). At the Forum, Lise Kingo, CEO and Executive Director, UN Global Compact, highlighted the [launch](#) of the [Women's Empowerment Principles \(WEPs\) Gender Gap Analysis Tool](#), which enables global business leaders to identify strengths, gaps and opportunities to improve gender equality in the workplace. This tool aims to educate C-suite business leaders on the unconscious and conscious factors influencing gender bias in business.

### **RightsCon Focuses on the Internet and Human Rights**

RightsCon 2017, a conference addressing issues of the Internet and human rights, held in Brussels, Belgium from March 29-31 brought together 1,500 attendees from 100 countries with representatives from 500+ organizations, technology companies, universities, startups and governments. Speakers included Nanjira Sambuli, Digital Equality Advocacy Manager, World Wide Web Foundation; Mitchell Baker, Mozilla's Executive Chairwoman; Alexander De Croo, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, and others. Videos from the conference may be found [here](#).

### **UN Speaks on the Importance of Human Rights in Sustainable Supply Chains**

The [UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights](#) sent an open letter to G20 leaders in Geneva on the need for human rights protection in global supply chains. The letter calls for governments "to lead by example" in their roles as economic actors to ensure global supply chains meet the globally agreed upon [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#).

## **NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES**

### **New Report Examines Human Rights and Vital Services in India**

A recent [report](#) issued by Nazdeek, an organization advocating for marginal groups in India, and the International Centre for Advocates Against Discrimination, highlights a project by the groups that enables women living in Delhi's slums and resettlement colonies to become leaders in their communities through reporting human rights violations. Community paralegals used SMS to gather data on human rights violations in two resettlement colonies across Delhi. Based on the findings, the report details recommendations for governmental entities for the delivery of basic services such as food, healthcare and housing.

### **EU Smart Border Initiative and Personal Data Protection**

In an [article](#) published in *Nature*, ethicist Gemma Gadon Clavell, discusses the ethical and political implications of the European Union's automated border system and issues in personal data protection. She explains the need for more transparency between individual travelers and their data protection rights.

### **Resilience as Resistance: Mental Health and Well-being in Human Rights**

A new series of [articles](#) on openGlobalRights explores the mental health impacts of human rights work, as well as innovative approaches to providing care and preventing harm. The editors invite articles that will expand the series; information on how to submit an article is available [here](#).

## **PEOPLE**

### **University Highlights Sam McFarland's Contributions to Human Rights**

Sam McFarland, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Western Kentucky University, an individual affiliated member of the Coalition, was profiled in an [article](#) in the *WKU Herald*. The article recaps his work to advance human rights throughout his academic career, including writing the Coalition's educational resource, "[Human Rights 101: A Brief College-Level Overview](#)," and his current role as a member of the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Human Rights.

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